

CLAIMS

1. A variable hand switch (100A, 100B, 200) controlling an amount of light emitted from light projecting means, receiving the light with the amount changed, by
5 light receiving means, and transmitting information of the received light to a body of an apparatus, comprising:

a wall (43, 45, 201) arranged opposite to said light projecting means (30A, 220) and said light receiving means (30B, 230); and

a light amount changing area (51, 52, 201a) provided on said wall (43, 45, 201)
10 for changing the amount of light projected from said light projecting means (30A, 220), in accordance with relative movement between said wall (43, 45, 201) and said light projecting means (30A, 220) and said light receiving means (30B, 230).

2. A variable hand switch (100A, 100B) controlling reflectance of light emitted
15 from light projecting and receiving means (30A, 30B) and transmitting change in reflectance to a body of an apparatus, comprising:

a movable wall (43, 45) provided continuously movable between a first position and a second position, and arranged opposite to said light projecting and receiving means (30A, 30B); and

a light reflecting area (51, 52) provided on a surface of said movable wall (43, 45) facing said light projecting and receiving means (30A, 30B) having at least two areas providing different reflectance of light projected from said light projecting and receiving means (30A, 30B), along with movement of said movable wall (43, 45).

25 3. The variable hand switch according to claim 2, wherein
said reflecting area (51) has a colored area with gradation, in which color tone changes gradually along the direction of movement of said movable wall.

4. The variable hand switch according to claim 2, wherein
said reflecting area (52) includes a first colored area and a second colored area
having darker colored area than the first colored area, arranged along the direction of
movement of said movable wall.

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5. The variable hand switch according to claim 2, wherein
said movable wall (43, 45) is formed of a hanging wall extended, from a pressing
area member (42, 44) positioned on a surface side of said variable hand switch, in the
direction of pressing; and

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the first position of said movable wall (43, 45) is selected when said pressing
area member (42, 44) is not pressed, and the second position of said movable wall (43,
45) is selected by gradually pressing said pressing area member (42, 44).

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6. The variable hand switch according to claim 2, wherein
said pressing area member (42, 44) has means (60) for applying elastic force for
applying an elastic force acting in a direction opposite to the direction of pressing, when
said pressing area member (42, 44) is pressed in the pressing direction.

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7. A variable hand switch (200) controlling an amount of light emitted from
light projecting means, receiving the light with the amount changed, by light receiving
means, and transmitting information of the received light to a body of an apparatus,
comprising:

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a movable wall (201) provided continuously movable between a first position
and a second position, and arranged between and opposite to said light projecting means
(220) and said light receiving means (230); and

a light transmittance changing area (201a) for changing amount of transmittance
of light projected from said light projecting means (220) along with the movement of
said movable wall (201).

8. The variable hand switch according to claim 7, wherein
said light transmittance changing area (201a) has a colored area with gradation,
in which color tone changes gradually along the direction of movement of said movable
5 wall.

9. The variable hand switch according to claim 7, wherein
said light transmittance changing area (201a) includes a first colored area and a
second colored area having darker colored area than the first colored area, arranged
10 along the direction of movement of said movable wall.

10. The variable hand switch according to claim 7, wherein
said movable wall (201) is formed of a hanging wall extended, from a pressing
area member (42, 44) positioned on a surface side of said variable hand switch, in the
15 direction of pressing; and
the first position of said movable wall (201) is selected when said pressing area
member (42, 44) is not pressed, and the second position of said movable wall (201) is
selected by gradually pressing said pressing area member (42, 44).

20 11. The variable hand switch according to claim 7, wherein
said pressing area member (42, 44) has means (260) for applying elastic force for
applying an elastic force acting in a direction opposite to the direction of pressing, when
said pressing area member (42, 44) is pressed in the pressing direction.

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